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Applicant

Hajime ODA et al.

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Frank J. Jordan

06/04/01

(Name of Registered Representative)

(Signature and Date)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a European Search Report dated April 17, 2001, along with Form PTO-1449 and copies of the four cited references listed therein.

German Patent No. DE 32 26 253 is in a foreign language. However, a concise explanation is not required because this non-English citation was cited in a search report by a foreign patent

office. In such a situation, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by submitting an English language version of the search report. Such English language version of the search report is enclosed herewith. (See MPEP, Section 609A(3), pages 600-100 and 600-101, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000). Accordingly, a concise explanation relating to this non-English citation is not required.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of the first Official Action. Therefore, there is no charge for filing this IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

Frank J. Jord

Reg. No. 20,456

Attorney for Applicants

122 East 42nd Street New York, New York 10168 (212) 986-2340

FJJ/cj Enc.